

BUSINESS IN THE OTHER COURTS.

JURISDICTION OF THE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

The United States Circuit Court during the past year \$27 admiralty, revenue and internal revenue suits have been commenced, of which 116 have been finally disposed of.

On the common law side and equity suit 107 cases were instituted, of which 29 were finally disposed of.

BANKRUPTCY PETITIONS.

Since the passage of the present Bankruptcy law, which came into operation at the end of June, 1897, up to the present time, the number of bankruptcy petitions filed in the Clerk's office of the Southern District has amounted to twenty-three. Of these thirteen WARRANTS ISSUED BY UNITED STATES COMMISSIONERS.

Mr. G. F. Betts and Mr. John A. Osborn, United States Commissioners, have issued during the past year 125 warrants, embracing a variety of crimes and misdemeanors in violation of the United States laws.

UNITED STATES CIRCUIT COURT.

On the common law side of this Court (exclusive of cases against the Collector of the Port and violations of the Internal Revenue Law) there were composed 56 suits, 21 of which have been tried and dismissed or won; On the equity side there were 321 suits instituted; 71 cases were heard on motion for injunction; 68 of those motions were granted and 3 denied. Thirteen cases were discharged by default.

All admiralty cases on appeal from the District Court 15 have been brought and 12 have been heard on merits. Twelve appeals in bankruptcy were brought from the District Court and 7 of these have been heard and disposed of.

In the criminal side of the Court 110 indictments were returned by grand jury during the last year thirty indictments were tried and disposed of. Twenty-five cases still remain undisposed of because they are Custom House charges. One case of manufacturing whiskey without license. Two of these suits is now pending as a test case to decide the result of the others. During the year the Circuit Judge presided over five trials before him—Judson, Snipman and Benedict. Judge Woodruff has sat in Vermont, and also in the Eastern and Southern Districts.

Messrs. White, Stillwell and Shields, United States Commissioners, have, for the past twelve months, issued 220 warrants for the arrest of persons charged with violations of United States Laws.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE.

In the United States Attorney's Office, \$10,500 \$4 have been paid as witness' fees by Charles E. Marsack. Two hundred and forty-nine criminal cases have been prosecuted, fifty-two terminated, twenty-five being convictions, six acquittals and twenty-one discontinued. Offsets brought, twenty-four. Despatches received, one hundred and sixteen. Revenue cases and twenty-two Post Office cases, thirty violations of the election law, five violations of the Naturalization law and seventy-eight miscellaneous.

Of cases terminated three were Customs House charges, nine internal revenue, fifteen Post Office and twenty-five miscellaneous.

RIVAL TELEGRAPH LINES.

The Legal Controversy Between the Atlantic and Pacific Telegraph Company and the Western Union Telegraph Company—Important Decision by Chief Justice Daly, of the Court of Common Pleas.

For some time past there has been a sharp and bitter controversy in the courts between the Atlantic and Pacific Telegraph Company and the Western Union Telegraph Company. These two companies, as is well known, have parallel or rival lines west of New York, but do not meet of this city. In August, 1897, two telegraph wires—the line of the Atlantic and Pacific Telegraph Company—one runs through Cleveland, Ohio, and the other from Virginia City, Nevada. They were directed to parties in Europe. On receipt of the messages here the agents of the company turned them over to the Western Union Telegraph Company for transmission, one over the "Anglo-American Telegraph Company, limited," La Valentin Bay;" the other over "La Société du Cable Transatlantique Française, Limited," to Brest. The usual charges in gold were proffered for forwarding the telegrams, but the Western Union Telegraph Company refused to send them. The latter company claims its line extending from New York to Duxbury, Mass., owns in part and possesses in full the line thence to Winter county in Nova Scotia, from which point it purchases a continuous line of telegraph communication between this city and Europe. Upon the refusal of the Western Union line to forward the despatches mentioned suit was brought to compel them to accept such telegrams, and an injunction was obtained enjoining the Atlantic and Pacific Telegraph Company from making any connection with the Western Union Company. It was made before Chief Justice Daly, of the Court of Common Pleas, to set aside this injunction, the Atlantic and Pacific Telegraph Company claiming all the rights connected therewith was fully supported by evidence in his decision. Judge Daly rendered yesterday morning upon the motion denying the injunction an abstract of the following:

OPINION OF JUDGE DALY.

"He holds for the State. He thinks it obligatory upon any telegraph company doing business in this State to receive despatches from other telegraphs lines which are from or for any individual person or corporation, whether he pays no additional charge, and it requires the company to transmit the dispatch with impartiality and good faith, and to pay nothing extra beyond what may be required to receive or transmit despatches from or for any company owning a line of telegraph parallel with or doing business in competition with the line over which the power of attorney required by the Western Union Company, he decides that this contract is null and void." As to authentic signatures or satisfactory proof for authentication instance that the telegram prescribed for transmission must be signed by the person whose name is subscribed to it, and denied by the defendants that the latter have never required the later. Courts will uphold the right of a telegraph company to compel conformity to certain general principles

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